

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EURE-00 MCE-00
AID-05 /076 W

-----036550 241744Z /47

O 241455Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1342
INFO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12324

E.O. 11652: GDS-4
TAGS: CH, UR, MASS
SUBJECT: SOVIET ACADEMICS CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. ARMS TO PRC

REF: MOSCOW 6714

SUMMARY: THREE SOVIETS IN ACADEMIC INSTITUTES IN MOSCOW HAVE
EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY U.S. WILL SUPPLY PRC WITH
MILITARY HARDWARE. SIMILAR CONCERNS RE CHINESE INTENTIONS VOICED
BY LATEST ISSUE OF "KOMMUNIST". END SUMMARY.

1. IN AUGUST 12 CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF G.F. KIM, CHIEF OF
KOREAN, MONGOLIA AND VIET-NAM SECTION OF THE INSTITUTE OF ORIENTAL
STUDIES IN MOSCOW, POINTED TO PILLSBURY "FOREIGN AFFAIRS"
ARTICLE AND WHITE HOUSE ADVISOR Z. BRZEZINSKI'S "U.S. NEWS AND
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WORLD REPORT" INTERVIEW TO SUPPORT HIS ALLEGATION THAT THE U.S.
IS GOING TO ARM CHINA. KIM CHARGED THAT SUCH A POLICY WOULD BE
EXTREMELY CONTRADICTORY TO DETENTE.

2. AMERICAN SINOLOGIST DONALD ZAGORIA, WHO HAS JUST ATTENDED
TWO SEMINARS ON THE FAR EAST AND PACIFIC SPONSORED BY THE USSR
COMMITTEE OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS IN Khabarovsk and Nakhodka,

TOLD EMBOFF THAT TOPIC OF POSSIBLE WESTERN ARMS SUPPLY TO PRC IS TROUBLING SOVIET ACADEMICS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SEMINARS. HE SPECIFICALLY LISTED VLADIMIR YAKUBOVSKIY, DEP. SCIENTIFIC SECRETARY, IMEMO, AND VLADIMIR LUKIN, CHIEF, ASIA SECTION OF USA INSTITUTE, AMONG THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED TO DRAW HIM OUT ON THIS ISSUE DURING HIS CURRENT TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION. YAKOBOVSKIY DWELLED ON THE "ALEKSANDROV" MAY 14 PRAVDA ARTICLE AND ITS WARNING ON THE SUPPLY OF MILITARY GOODS TO THE PRC (REFTEL).

3. ZAGORIA COMMENTED THAT POSSIBLE PRC DEALS WITH THE FRG AND THE UK ON THE LEOPARD TANK AND THE HARRIER AIRCRAFT FEED SOVIET CONCERNS. HE THOUGHT THAT THE STRONG EXPRESSIONS OF SOVIET CONCERN ARE BASED ON A GENUINE ANXIETY OVER A FUTURE CHINESE THREAT TO THE USSR AND A CALCULATED EFFORT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN THE U.S. ON THE QUESTION OF ARMS TO CHINA.

4. ZAGORIA STATED THAT HIS SOVIET ACADEMIC COLLEAGUES BELIEVE THAT COMPETITION BETWEEN HUA KUA-FENG AND TENG HSIAO-PING WILL CONTINUE AND ALMOST INSURE POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN CHINA. YAKOBOVSKIY TOLD HIM THAT AFTER MAO'S DEATH HE ALONG WITH OTHERS HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE SOVIET UNION OFFER A TROOP PULLBACK FROM DISPUTED AREAS ALONG THE SINO-SOVIET BORDER TO BUTTRESS ITS POST MAO EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH PEKING. YAKOBOVSKIY SAID THAT THE "HARD-LINERS" CONFIDENTIAL

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IN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT OVERRULED THE SUGGESTION.

5. COMMENT: WE FIND THESE STATEMENTS BY SOVIET ACADEMICIANS ESPECIALLY NOTABLE IN VIEW OF SECRETARY'S CURRENT VISIT TO PEKING AND LONG ANTI-CHINESE AUGUST 12 ARTICLE IN "KOMMUNIST" (SUMMARIZED BY AUGUST 24 TASS RELEASE) HOLDING THAT "THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP HAS BEEN RECENTLY PERSISTENTLY SEEKING FROM THE WEST MILITARY AID IN THE FORM OF SUPPLIES OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS IN AID FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WAR INDUSTRY."

6. ARTICLE LAUNCHES BLISTERING IDEOLOGICAL ATTACK ON CHINESE, ALLEGES A "SHIFT TO THE RIGHT" IN THE "MAIN TRENDS OF PEKING INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY" AND ACCUSES CHINA OF "INSTIGATING, ON THE BASIS OF COMMON INTERESTS, THE UNITED STATES TO STRUGGLE 'SPEAR AGAINST SPEAR' AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AND PROVOKE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE A DETERIORATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR." TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, POLICIES, MILITARY SALES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW12324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770306-0008
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770829/aaaaaxyf.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cf301054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MOSCOW 6714
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1501341
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET ACADEMICS CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. ARMS TO PRC
TAGS: MASS, CH, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cf301054-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009